IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Cancel Claim 3 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Cancel Claim 8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Cancel Claim 9 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

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13.   A data storage manager operational in a data storage subsystem that uses a plurality of data storage elements to store data thereon for a plurality of host processors that are coupled to said data storage subsystem, comprising:

means for maintaining at least one storage attribute associated with a logical data storage device, said logical data storage device comprising at least a portion of said plurality of data storage elements;

means for identifying at least one storage attribute appropriate for a present data object;

means for comparing said identified storage attribute with said maintained storage attribute;

means, responsive to a failure to match said identified storage attribute with said maintained storage attribute, for creating a new logical data storage device; and

means for storing said present data object on that portion of said plurality of data storage elements that correspond to said new logical data storage device.

14.   The data storage manager of Claim 13, wherein said plurality of data storage elements comprise physical and logical data storage elements.

15.   A data storage manager operational in a data storage subsystem that uses a plurality of data storage elements to store data thereon for a plurality of host processors that are coupled to said data storage subsystem, comprising:

means for maintaining at least one storage attribute associated with a logical data storage device, said logical data storage device comprising at least a portion of said plurality of data storage elements;

means for identifying at least one storage attribute appropriate for a present data object;

means for comparing said identified storage attribute with said maintained storage attribute;

means, responsive to a match of said identified storage attribute with said maintained storage attribute, for creating a new instantiation of said logical data storage device; and

means for storing said present data object on that portion of said plurality of data storage elements that correspond to said new instantiation of said logical data storage device.

16.   The data storage manager of Claim 15, wherein said plurality of data storage elements comprise physical and logical data storage elements.

17.   In a data storage manager operational in a data storage subsystem that uses a plurality of data storage elements to store data thereon for a plurality of host processors that are coupled to said data storage subsystem, a method comprising the steps of:

maintaining at least one storage attribute associated with a logical data storage device, said logical data storage device comprising at least a portion of said plurality of data storage elements;

identifying at least one storage attribute appropriate for a present data object;

comparing said identified storage attribute with said maintained storage attribute;

creating, responsive to a failure to match said identified storage attribute with said maintained storage attribute, a new logical data storage device; and

storing said present data object on that portion of said plurality of data storage elements that correspond to said new logical data storage device.

18. A data storage manager operational in a data storage subsystem that uses a plurality of data storage elements to store data thereon for a plurality of host processors that are coupled to said data storage subsystem, comprising:

maintaining at least one storage attribute associated with a logical data storage device, said logical storage device comprising at least a portion of said plurality of data storage elements;

identifying at least one storage attribute appropriate for a present data object;

comparing said identified storage attribute with said maintained storage attribute;

creating, responsive to a match of said identified storage attribute with said maintained storage attribute, a new instantiation of said logical data storage device; and

storing said present data object on that portion of said plurality of data storage elements that correspond to said new instantiation of said logical data storage device.